



ABOVE—Tech. Sgt. Matthew Basanta (first and fourth photo), Airman 1st Class John Degnaro (second and third photos) and Senior Airman Christian Sorensen (fifth photo), all with the 377th Civil Engineer Division, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, played as aggressors attempting to take over Camp Freedom.

Experience based exercise provides touch of realism

The 377th Air Base Wing conducted an Operational Readiness Exercise—OPERATION CALMING PRESENCE—last week which strived for realism.

For 39 hours, wing members were deployed to a bare-base site where their mission was to provide base support to an existing humanitarian aid mission.

The 127 participants faced exercises day and night and could not leave the area. Players involved were chosen from AEF nine, who are in their deployment window, and AEF five.

Scenarios were conducted based on experiences of personnel that have been deployed to the desert. The Exercise and Evaluation Division observed past deployments to help mirror this Phase II exercise to that of a real world deployment.



Surprise visitors dropped in on the deployed contracting office just to check things out.

RIGHT—Staff Sgt. Dustin Lambries, 377th Civil Engineer Division, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, (front) also plays as an aggressor. Airman Degnaro is in the background.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Markus Maier



ABOVE—Staff Sgt. Jason Bradley (right), 377th medical Group, provides Self Aid Buddy Care to several wounded members.



LEFT—(From left to right) Playing as United Nations Security members, Tech. Sgt. Curtis Keel, Staff Sgt. Steven Coppock and Tech. Sgt. Ronald O'Hara, all with the 377th Civil Engineer Division, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, take cover behind a forklift during the Phase II part of an Operational Readiness Exercise at Cayote Canyon May 13.

BELOW LEFT—Staff Sgt. Mirna Herran, 377th Air Base Wing Legal Office, places a marker on the ground to warn people of an unexploded ordnance.

BELOW—Senior Airman Kenneth Autry, stands guard in Building 2.

